Export of Cotton by Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation

2037. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation is procuring maximum quantity of cotton every year in the country; and

(b) if so, the percentage of total procurement the Federation is allowed to export and its share in the total export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Since there is a monopoly procurement scheme in the State of Maharashtra alone, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation is obliged to buy the entire cotton produced in the state.

(b) Out of the total export quota of 15.00 lakh bales released for 1995-96, the quota allotted exclusively to the Marketing Federations of Eight cotton growing states was 6.20 lakh bales. As against this, the Maharashtra Federation was allotted a quota of 4.20 lakh bales.

Strengthening Indian Air Force

2038. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a stock taking about the adequacy or the otherwise of the IAF aircraft and personnel strength was made, on the occasion of Air Force Day, October 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the strength and the findings of the stock-taking; and

(c) the decisions taken to replenish and augment the strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of existing strength of personnel as well as operational and technological capabilities of existing weapon systems including aircraft, threat perception and resources, measures as considered necessary are taken on a continuous basis to maintain and enhance the technological and operational capabilities of the IAF.

Additional Irrigation Facilities for Orissa

2039. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire irrigation potential in Orissa has not been fully utilised;

(b) if so, the steps taken to create additional irrigation facilities in Orissa during Eight Five Year Plan; and

(c) the various efforts proposed to be made to tap the irrigation potential available in that State fully?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Eighth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 3003.73 crores has been provided under the State Plan to create additional irrigation potential of 484.00 thousand hectares in Orissa. Further addition of irrigation potential in the State is also envisaged during the Ninth Five Year Plan the targets and outlays for which are yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

Visit of German Defence Minister of India

2040. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German Federal Minister of Defence visited New Delhi, in October this year;

(b) if so, the specific issues discussed and agreements finalised for augmenting Indo-German cooperation in the matter of supplies and production of defence equipments, arms and air and naval crafts, including submarines; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.